(a) Government of India has not only maintained its earlier view point but also reiterated the same at the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in New Delhi from 23rd October to 1st November, 2002.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Several measures have been adopted by Government of India to promote efficient utilization of fossil fuels, use of renewable energy technologies, abatement of pollution and conservation of forests that would help in reducing the CO_2 emissions. Similarly, India has been able to achieve the 1999 freeze in production and consumption of CFCs. Projects for reduction and eventual cessation of consumption and production of CFCs have also been taken up.

Study on Ganga Pollution

1115. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Ganga Action Plan started;

(b) what are the details of tortuous attempts made to clean the Ganga and the amount spent so far;

(c) how many studies were conducted and the reports submitted so far, giving the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have planned one more study for control of pollution by an international agency; if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(e) by when the report is likely to be presented?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) and (b) The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) has been taken up in two phases. The first phase of Ganga Action Plan was started in 1985 with the objective of preventing the pollution of river Ganga and to improve its water quality along 25 towns. The Plan was completed on 31.3.2000 and an amount of Rs. 451.70 crore has been spent. Against a target capacity of 873 million litres per day (mld) planned for treatment of wastewater, a capacity to treat 865 mld has been created.

The GAP Phase-II, which covers Ganga and its tributaries viz. Yamuna, Gomti

and Damodar was approved in phases between 1993 and 1996 and is under implementation. Out of an approved cost of Rs. 1498.86 crore, an amount of Rs. 732.80 crore has been spent and a capacity to treat 724 mld of wastewater has been created so far. The GAP Phase-II is targeted for completion by December, 2005.

(c) A comprehensive evaluation of GAP Phase-I by independent agencies (universities and R&D institutions) was undertaken in April, 1995. The evaluation report concluded that reduction of discharge of organic matter, a necessary first step in restoring the water quality of the river, has been achieved to a fair level under GAP Phase-I. Concern was expressed about contamination of the river with bacterial pollution and the need to address the same. However, it was stated that GAP Phase-I as conceived and implemented is an appropriate programme for application to other river basins. The shortcomings of the programme have also been brought out in the report and have been taken note of for modification in the subsequent programmes.

On the directions of the Planning Commission, a Cost Benefit Analysis of Ganga Action Plan was carried out in 1995-96 by the Harvard Institute of International Development, U.K. in collaboration with reputed national institutes. the Study demonstrated that:

(i) inspite of its many shortcomings, the Ganga Action Plan has delivered significant benefits to India and there have been improvements in water quality (measured in terms of dissolved oxygen and bio-chemical oxygen demand) in some places. The polluted stretch of the river violating the bathing class standard, which would have been atleast 740 kms. between Kannauj and Varanasi without GAP Phase-I had been reduced to 437 kms. after completion of GAP Phase-I.

(ii) both users and non-users have benefited and the result is that the real rate of return on GAP Phase-I is well above the 10% required of public sector projects.

(iii) in terms of both the cost involved and the time taken, Ganga Action Plan compared favourably with other clean-up programmes undertaken in the world for rivers Thames, Rhine and Danube.

The Central Pollution Control Board, on the directions of the Supreme Court, carried out a detailed inspection of the sewage treatment plants (STPs) set up under GAP ;Phase-I in July, 2001. The Inspection Report of the Central Pollution Control Board concluded that out of the 35 STPs sanctioned under GAP

Phase-I, 32 were commissioned and of these 29 were found functioning. The report also indicates that adequate fund allocation for operation and maintenance of STPs is not provided, particularly in Bihar and UP.

(d) and (e) The Japan International Cooperation Agency of the Government of Japan has recently agreed to provide technical assistance for taking up a development study on 'Water Quality Management Plan for river Ganga'. The objective of the study is to (i) formulate the Master Plan for water quality management for the Ganga basin concerning liquid waste, and (ii) formulate feasibility studies for high priority projects identified in the Master Plan focusing on four towns namely, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Lucknow. This study is different than the three studies mentioned in para (c) above as it aims at formulating the remaining works to be taken up over and above those implemented/proposed to be implemented under GAP Phase-I and II in the four towns in the Ganga Basin. It will take two years to complete the study.

Tiger Population

1116. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the tiger population in the country as on date;

(b) the number of tigers reportedly killed during the last two years, year-wise, in different parts of the country; and

(c) the steps taken to manage the sanctuaries and tiger reserves properly and to increase the tiger population?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The estimated tiger population in the country is around 3600.

(b) As per the available reports, during 2001 sixteen tigers and during 2002 (upto October 2002) nine tigers were killed in various parts of the country.

(c) The responsibility for management of Protected Areas having Tiger population rests with State Governments. However, Government of India provides technical and funding support through Centrally Sponsored Scheme for efficient management of these areas. The details of funding under these Schemes-'Project Tiger' and 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' are as under: